

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

09/476,321

Examiner

Cristina Owen Sherr

Applicant(s)

OPPEDAHL, CARL

Art Unit

3621

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☐ This communication is responsive to Amendment filed 2 April 2004.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-23.
3. ☐ The drawings filed on _____ are accepted by the Examiner.
4. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
 - * Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

5. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
6. ☒ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☒ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☒ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
7. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☒ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☒ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date 05 April 2004
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit
of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6. ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date _____
7. ☐ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other _____

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1. This communication is in response to the after-final amendment filed 2 April 2004. Claims 1-23 are pending in this application.

Reasons for Allowance

2. The following is an Examiner's statement of reasons for the indication of allowable subject matter:

The closest prior art of record shows:

- (1) A system and method for detection of errors in accounting for postal charges in controlled acceptance environment (Pintsov, US 6,009,416A);
- (2) Mail processing system with unique mail piece authorization assigned in advance of mail pieces entering carrier service mail processing stream (Pinsov et al US 6,385,504B1);
- (3) recording of graphical information on the face of each mail piece and placing information about the graphical information in information-based indicia (Sansone et al US 6,408,287B1);
- (4) a method for operating a digitally printing postage meter to generate and check a security imprint (Pauschinger, US 6,041,704A);
- (5) a system for dispensing, verifying and tracking postage and other information on mail pieces (Moore, US 5,917,925A);
- (6) USPS environment, Facilities and workflow (Customer Value Analysis Supplemental Add-on Survey, November 2000);
- (7) New Mailing Equipment Can Bring Big Savings (Maguire, Michael D.; Office Systems v8n9 pp: 58-62, Sep 1991).

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3. Applicant's set of claims consists of claims 1-23.

4. Independent claim 1 is directed at a system for authentication of mail pieces bearing bar-coded indicia. This claim identifies the uniquely distinct feature of a first barcode scanner and a second back-up bar code scanner, such that any piece of mail in which the first scanner cannot identify the barcode for any reason is re-scanned with a second more sensitive scanner, thus eliminating the need for a human being to process mail pieces in which the bar code is faded or damaged, but no fraudulent. Because nothing in the prior art appears to teach such a combination of scanners and paper paths leading to and from such scanner, independent claim 1 and its dependent claims 2-5 are deemed allowable.

5. Independent claim 6 is directed at a method authentication of mail pieces bearing bar-coded indicia. This claim identifies the uniquely distinct feature of a first barcode scanner and a second back-up bar code scanner, such that any piece of mail in which the first scanner cannot identify the barcode for any reason is re-scanned with a second more sensitive scanner, thus eliminating the need for a human being to process mail pieces in which the bar code is faded or damaged, but no fraudulent. Because nothing in the prior art appears to teach such a combination of scanners and paper paths leading to and from such scanner, independent claim 6 and its dependent claims 7-19 are deemed allowable.

6. Independent claim 20 is directed at a system for authentication of mail pieces bearing bar-coded indicia. This claim identifies the uniquely distinct feature of a first barcode scanner and second and third back-up bar code scanners, such that any piece

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of mail in which the first scanner cannot identify the barcode for any reason is re-scanned with a second and third more sensitive scanners, thus eliminating the need for a human being to process mail pieces in which the bar code is faded or damaged, but no fraudulent. Because nothing in the prior art appears to teach such a combination of scanners and paper paths leading to and from such scanners, independent claim 20 and its dependent claims 21-23 are deemed allowable.

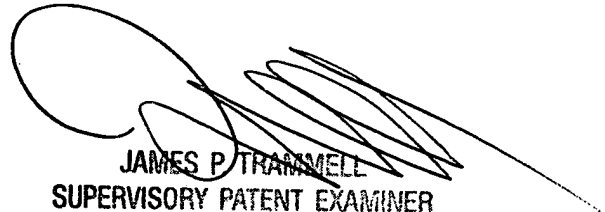
7. Any comments considered necessary by Applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

8. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Cristina O Sherr whose telephone number is 703-305-0625. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday through Friday 8:30 to 5:00.

9. If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, James Trammell can be reached on 703-305-9768. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

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10. Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).



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